

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

Economic Indicators

April 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	154,365,000	2,151,192
Employed	141,865,000	1,961,327
Unemployed	12,500,000	189,865
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	8.8%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 977.57	\$ 709.80
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	42.0
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.96	\$ 16.90

Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Florence MSA	5.31%
Spartanburg MSA	3.63%
Myrtle Beach MSA	1.75%
Columbia MSA	1.44%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2012	2011
U.S. Participation Rate	63.6%	64.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.1%	59.8%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.4%	58.4%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.9%	53.6%

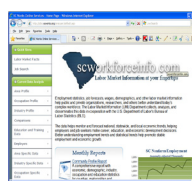
United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.3%
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In the News

LMI Has a New Website

SCWorks has put Labor Market Information at your fingertips! Find employment statistics, job forecasts, wages and demographics to help you better understand today's complex workforce.



<http://www.scworkforceinfo.com>

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Employment
3,256

Unemployment
2,799

Unemployment
Rate 0.1%

Unemployment Rate Continues to Decline

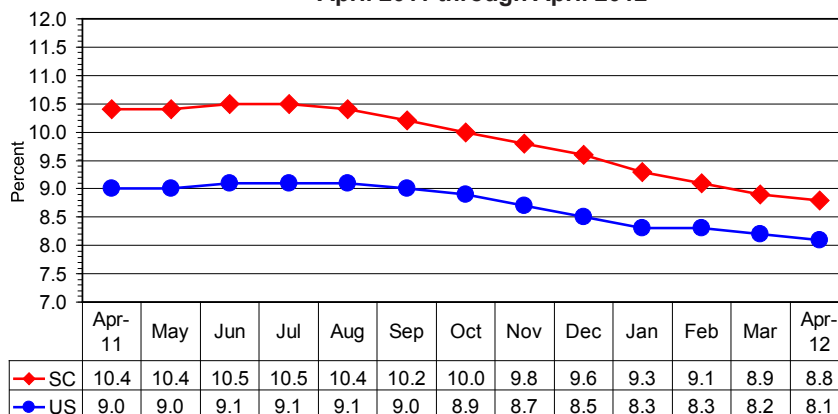
South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined for the ninth consecutive month. The rate dipped from 8.9 percent in March to 8.8 percent in April. The number of employed dropped to 1,961,327, while the number of unemployed decreased to 189,865. Combined, the decline in employed persons of 3,256 and 2,799 persons that stopped looking for work, moved the labor force down by approximately 6,055 people over the month.

In the past year, approximately 28,290 people found work, reflecting continued improvement. The labor force as a whole, has declined slightly over the year (-5,598), along with the level of unemployed persons, falling 33,887 since April 2011.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped from 8.2 percent in March to 8.1 percent in April, with about 340,000 people leaving the labor force in April. Going forward, this bears monitoring, as the labor force has dropped over 500,000 people in the past two months, while the nation's population (age 16 and older) continues to increase.

As June approaches, recent graduates will enter the labor force for the first time, some finding employment and some extending their search for the ideal job.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
April 2011 through April 2012



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.

April Unemployment Rates by County

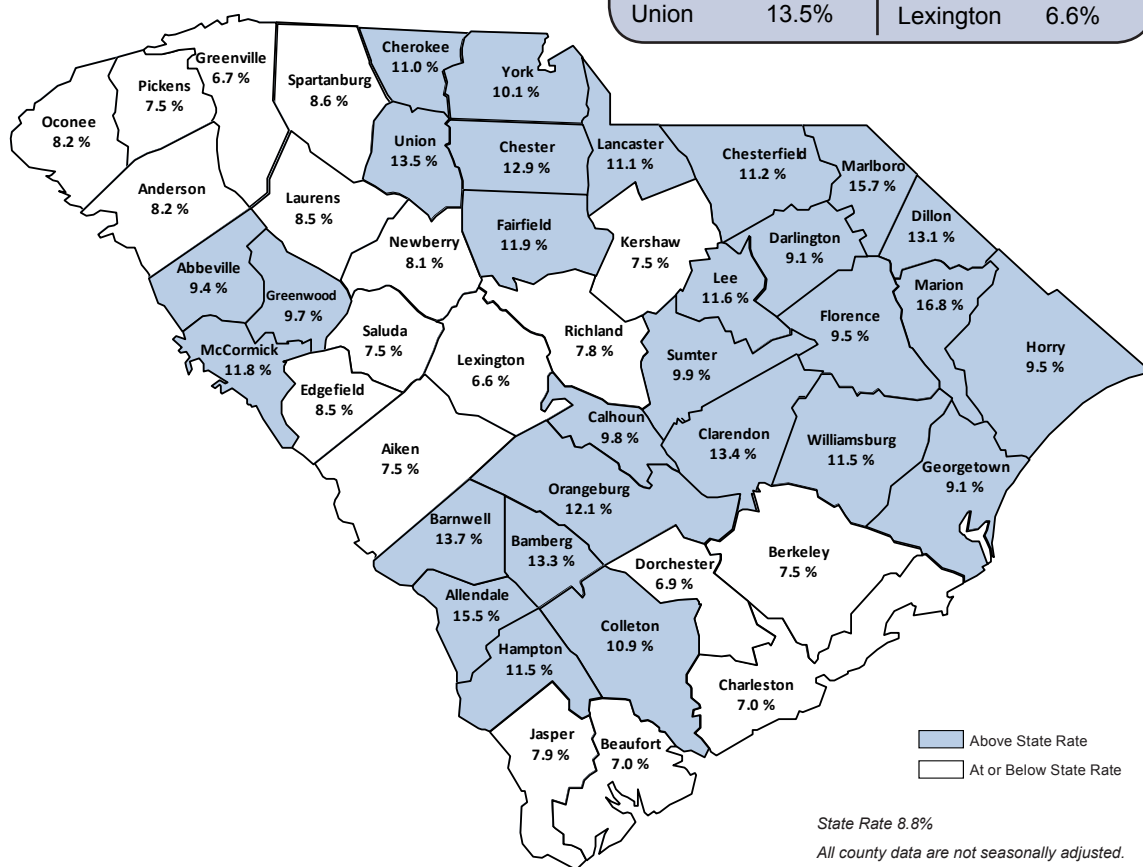
State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	11.7
Rhode Island	11.2
California	10.9
D.C.	9.5
North Carolina	9.4
New Jersey	9.1
Georgia	8.9
South Carolina	8.8
Florida	8.7
Illinois	8.7
Mississippi	8.7
New York	8.5
Oregon	8.5
Kentucky	8.3
Michigan	8.3
Arizona	8.2
United States	8.1
Washington	8.1
Colorado	7.9
Indiana	7.9
Tennessee	7.8
Connecticut	7.7
Idaho	7.7
Ohio	7.4
Pennsylvania	7.4
Missouri	7.3
Alabama	7.2
Arkansas	7.2
Maine	7.2
Louisiana	7.1
Alaska	6.9
New Mexico	6.9
Texas	6.9
Delaware	6.8
Maryland	6.7
West Virginia	6.7
Wisconsin	6.7
Hawaii	6.3
Massachusetts	6.3
Kansas	6.1
Montana	6.1
Utah	6.0
Minnesota	5.6
Virginia	5.6
Wyoming	5.3
Iowa	5.1
New Hampshire	5.0
Oklahoma	5.0
Vermont	4.6
South Dakota	4.3
Nebraska	3.9
North Dakota	3.0

Over the month, county unemployment rate estimates showed decreases in 30 counties. Seven counties saw increases, and nine remained unchanged. McCormick and Horry counties saw the largest rate decreases at -0.9 and -0.8 percentage points, respectively. Chester and Marion counties both saw rate decreases of -0.6 percentage points. Lexington County's rate dropped to 6.6%, currently the lowest in the state.

Over the year, 45 counties have seen declines in their unemployment rate estimates; only Bamberg County had an increase (0.1 percent). Spartanburg County has seen the largest increase in people finding work (+3,160), followed by Florence County (+2,370).

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	16.8%	Beaufort	7.0%
Marlboro	15.7%	Charleston	7.0%
Allendale	15.5%	Dorchester	6.9%
Barnwell	13.7%	Greenville	6.7%
Union	13.5%	Lexington	6.6%



South Carolina Ranked Eighth of Fifty-one in April

Regional and state unemployment rates were little changed in April. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia recorded unemployment rate decreases, five states posted rate increases, and eight states had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, while only one state experienced an increase and one had no change. The national jobless rate was little changed from March at 8.1 percent but was 0.9 percentage point lower than in April 2011.

April Changes in Employment by County

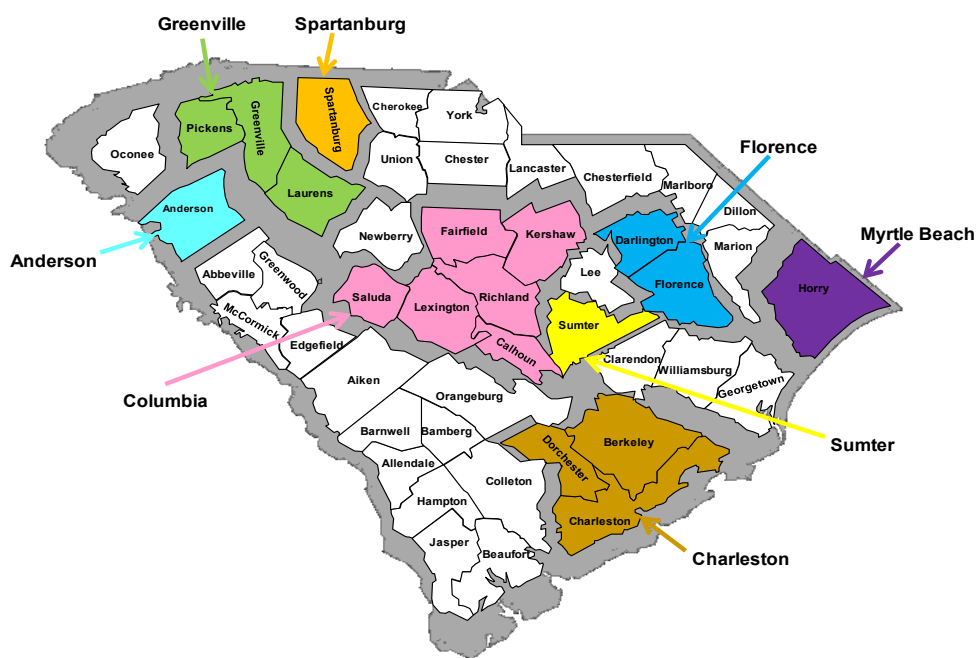
County	Employment			Employment Changes	
	April	March	February	Mar-Apr	Feb-Mar
Abbeville County, SC	9,592	9,600	9,555	-8	45
Aiken County, SC	68,498	68,541	68,465	-43	76
Allendale County, SC	2,752	2,788	2,749	-36	39
Anderson County, SC	74,745	74,519	74,489	226	30
Bamberg County, SC	5,290	5,317	5,275	-27	42
Barnwell County, SC	7,202	7,225	7,181	-23	44
Beaufort County, SC	59,592	59,506	59,293	86	213
Berkeley County, SC	77,695	77,447	77,429	248	18
Calhoun County, SC	6,053	6,057	6,070	-4	-13
Charleston County, SC	163,876	163,354	163,315	522	39
Cherokee County, SC	21,875	21,864	21,757	11	107
Chester County, SC	12,477	12,501	12,443	-24	58
Chesterfield County, SC	16,513	16,578	16,446	-65	132
Clarendon County, SC	10,681	10,767	10,675	-86	92
Colleton County, SC	15,156	15,213	15,102	-57	111
Darlington County, SC	27,957	27,853	27,501	104	352
Dillon County, SC	11,356	11,442	11,327	-86	115
Dorchester County, SC	63,527	63,325	63,310	202	15
Edgefield County, SC	10,071	10,078	10,066	-7	12
Fairfield County, SC	9,524	9,530	9,550	-6	-20
Florence County, SC	57,708	57,491	56,767	217	724
Georgetown County, SC	26,985	26,948	26,581	37	367
Greenville County, SC	207,792	208,664	209,679	-872	-1,015
Greenwood County, SC	27,621	27,590	27,501	31	89
Hampton County, SC	6,765	6,818	6,753	-53	65
Horry County, SC	116,008	113,391	109,020	2,617	4,371
Jasper County, SC	9,595	9,581	9,547	14	34
Kershaw County, SC	27,121	27,140	27,196	-19	-56
Lancaster County, SC	26,993	26,993	26,894	0	99
Laurens County, SC	27,746	27,862	27,998	-116	-136
Lee County, SC	7,170	7,253	7,184	-83	69
Lexington County, SC	124,038	124,123	124,380	-85	-257
McCormick County, SC	2,899	2,908	2,893	-9	15
Marion County, SC	9,882	9,914	9,760	-32	154
Marlboro County, SC	9,606	9,741	9,681	-135	60
Newberry County, SC	16,588	16,740	16,648	-152	92
Oconee County, SC	28,234	28,284	28,193	-50	91
Orangeburg County, SC	35,601	35,715	35,509	-114	206
Pickens County, SC	53,141	53,364	53,624	-223	-260
Richland County, SC	166,681	166,794	167,140	-113	-346
Saluda County, SC	8,343	8,349	8,366	-6	-17
Spartanburg County, SC	121,448	121,871	120,858	-423	1,013
Sumter County, SC	39,800	39,941	40,068	-141	-127
Union County, SC	9,780	9,813	9,742	-33	71
Williamsburg County, SC	14,197	14,265	14,085	-68	180
York County, SC	99,595	99,400	99,241	195	159

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) April 2012



Catawba WIA	10.5%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	6.7%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	8.1%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	9.8%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.5%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	11.0%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	9.8%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	7.1%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	8.9%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	9.3%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	9.6%
www.wrcog.org	
WorkLink WIA	8.0%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) April 2012



Anderson MSA	8.2%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	7.1%
Columbia MSA	7.5%
Florence MSA	9.4%
Greenville MSA	7.0%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	9.5%
Spartanburg MSA	8.6%
Sumter MSA	9.9%

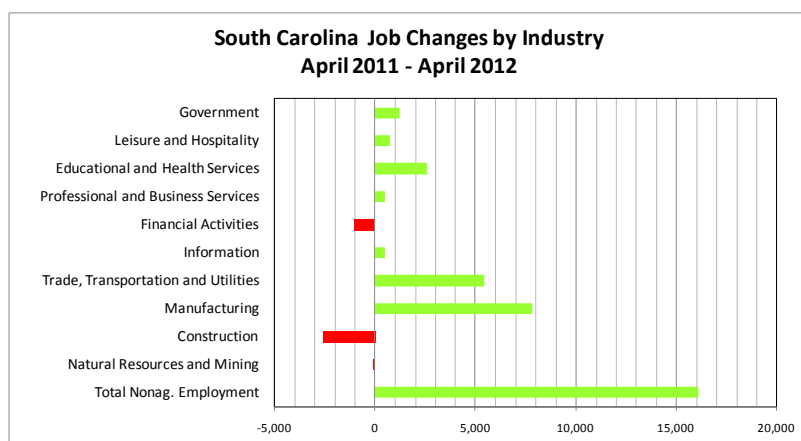
South Carolina Monthly Employment Trends

South Carolina's nonfarm employment showed a gain of 13,500 jobs from March to April. Leisure and Hospitality employment (+7,300) showed a substantial increase for the third consecutive month. The majority of this growth was in Food and Drinking. Trade, Transportation and Utilities increased by 3,400, mostly in Retail Trade activity. Professional and Business Services (+1,000), Manufacturing (+300), and Construction (+500) also showed improvements. Education and Health Services climbed 1,300, mostly in Health Care and Social Assistance, while Government jobs fell by 500, primarily in local governments.

Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Myrtle Beach (+3,500), Charleston (+2,400), Columbia (+2,000), and Florence (+1,000) saw the largest gains in April. Anderson (+700), Spartanburg (+100), and Sumter (+100) showed modest increases as well. Over the past year, South Carolina saw job growth in the metropolitan areas of Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Spartanburg, and Myrtle Beach.

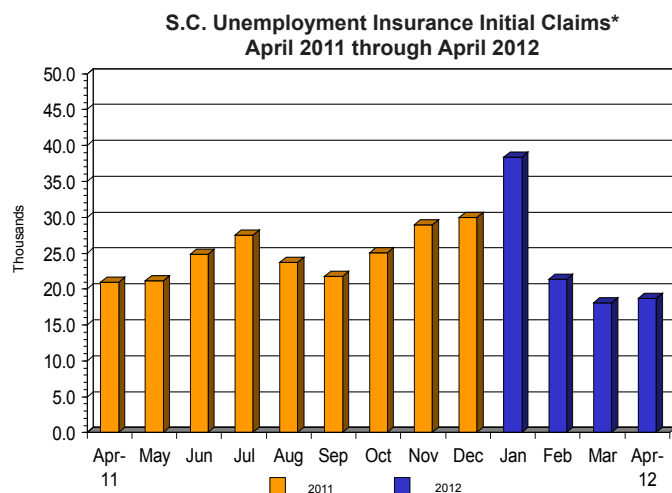
Since April 2011, total nonfarm employment rose by 16,100 jobs. Manufacturing (+7,800) and Trade Transportation and Utilities (+5,400), experienced the greatest increases. The sub-sectors of Employment Services (+4,600) and Health Care and Social Assistance (+2,200) also reported notable gains.

The state's average weekly manufacturing hours rose by 0.7 hours over the month, and hourly wages increased \$0.15. Over the year, hours have declined by 0.7 hours with wages growing by \$0.08.



April Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial unemployment claims for April were 18,708, which was a decrease of 2,291 from April 2011. This was a considerable drop from a high of 47,599 in April 2009. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid also showed a decline of \$5.7 million from a year ago. In addition to fewer people applying for and receiving benefits, there was a downward trend in the average duration of benefits, which dropped from 16.3 weeks to 14.9 weeks over the past year.



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	18,708
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$28,298,592
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,668
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	14.9
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$241.80

* All programs

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

SC Workforce Areas:

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County
Lexington County
Richland County

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County
Dillon County
Florence County
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County
Lee County
Sumter County

Trident

Berkeley County
Charleston County
Dorchester County

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County
Oconee County
Pickens County

Online job advertisements in South Carolina, as reported by The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series, which is an independent business and research association, showed a small increase of 400 ads from March to April 2012. The number of jobseekers per opening rate declined slightly from 3.7 in March to 3.6 in April. Online ads across the U.S. saw a gain of 90,900 over the past month. Online ads in South Carolina were about 1,000 higher in April 2012, compared to a year ago.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties) had the most number of ads (12,606), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland Counties) coming in next with 11,020. Of all online ads, Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations had the highest number of ads in the state (9,489).

The table below shows a breakdown of numbers and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas April 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,818	16,367	6:1
Greenville	9,050	15,011	2:1
Lowcountry	3,323	8,052	2:1
Lower Savannah	2,002	13,569	7:1
Midlands	11,020	24,231	2:1
Pee Dee	2,965	16,442	6:1
Santee-Lynches	1,449	9,164	6:1
Trident	12,606	23,295	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,144	10,004	9:1
Upstate	3,259	15,606	5:1
Waccamaw	5,576	16,705	3:1
Worklink	2,564	13,539	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	52,900 (SA)	189,865 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,760,500 (SA)	12,500,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information